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MARRAKESH : THE CITY WALLS
"Architecture in North Africa."



THE TEMPLE AT DOUGGA

Architecture in North Africa

BY ARTHUR J. DAVIS [F.]

[Read before the Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday, 23 May 1927.]

HAVING spent several interesting holidays in Mediterranean countries, where among successive conquests and settlements of past civilisations the Mohammedan influence of the Middle Ages left such a lasting impression, I was determined at some future date to renew my acquaintance with the works of Islam by a visit to the ancient cities scattered along the Northern Coast of Africa.

In February 1925 the opportunity offered itself, and my wife and I, armed with sketch book and camera, set out for a five weeks' tour through Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, to gather some idea of the interest and beauty of these historical countries.

Let me say at once that the glowing descriptions we had received were in no way exaggerated and that the interest of our journey far exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

The limited time at my disposal this evening makes it impossible to give anything but a sketch outline of our impressions, but, with the help of the lantern slides, I hope to convey some idea of

the great artistic achievements of the Moors, whose influence in Mediæval times spread not only over the North African continent, but affected many of the European nations with which it came into contact.

Morocco, although situated within a short distance of many well-known Mediterranean ports, was, until recently, practically *terra incognita* to the tourist, owing to the insufficiency of modern means of transport and the hostile fanaticism of its population. Even to-day, although the French have built excellent military motor roads, railway communications are practically non-existent, and much of the interior of the country is all but inaccessible. This state of affairs is changing rapidly, and there is little doubt that in the near future Morocco will emulate its neighbours Algeria and Tunisia and reveal its innermost secrets. The Moors will certainly benefit materially by the change, but they will in the process inevitably lose many of the national qualities which are typical of the dwellers in lands where Islam holds unchallenged sway.

Of the many successive conquests which swept over North Africa each one has left eloquent traces of its passage. The Phœnicians, the Romans, the Arabs, then the Portuguese and the Turks, and latterly the French and Spaniards, either conquered the whole country or built military trading settlements along the coast. Ancient Carthage, the greatest maritime nation of antiquity, alone has left no trace of its glory and power. The very situation of its great harbours is conjectural. The tragedy of its fate was overwhelming, and only a few inscriptions collected together in a small monastery bear witness to-day to the greatness of a people whose very existence was a constant menace and danger to its hated Latin rival.

You now see on the screen a sketch map on which is shown the route we followed. It stretches from the Atlantic Coast to the Bay of Tunis and passes through most of the North African cities renowned in the history of the Middle Ages.

Sailing from Bordeaux on one of the comfortable ships of the *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique*, we landed at Casablanca, and from there motored approximately 2,000 miles. By following the main coastal road many interesting districts of the interior had perforce to be omitted from our itinerary, but, even so, a comprehensive study of the places we passed through would require a much longer time than we were able to afford to do anything like justice to their many beauties.

Casablanca is the principal port of the Protectorate of Morocco, a mushroom city growing out of the sand, exposed to the west winds which lash the Atlantic breakers on its open front. As a natural harbour it leaves much to be desired, but of late a great deal has been done to improve it. France, with a touching confidence, is proud of Casablanca, for whatever else may have been accomplished by others in Morocco, here, she says, is a place of her own creation.

The native quarter is disappointing and in the modern town the architectural interest is confined to the administrative and commercial buildings of the type which we were to become familiar with later on in Algeria.

Our first objective was Marrakesh, 190 miles south. On leaving Casablanca the road for some distance runs parallel with the Atlantic; and an occasional glimpse of the ocean relieves the monotony of an otherwise uninteresting countryside. As we proceeded it was curious to note

the contrast between the old and new modes of transport. Morocco, from a life almost primitive, has plunged without transition into the most modern methods of locomotion. Motor-cars flash past on the newly constructed roads, an occasional aeroplane drones overhead, while on the dusty side-tracks small caravans of burnoused Arabs in picturesque confusion journey with their families and animals as leisurely as did their forefathers centuries ago, when their only means of transport were the horse, the camel and the much ill-used donkey.

Unlike Algeria, Morocco cannot boast of much beautiful scenery; the general outlook is rather bleak and inhospitable. Cultivation is still of a primitive order and the scattered settlers are insufficient in number to make a noticeable impression on the land. In the distance, as we pass on, flocks of Berber sheep and an occasional cluster of tents of the nomad Berbers alone detract from the monotony of the rolling hills. We were told that this barren, and somewhat depressing, landscape changed altogether in early summer, and that the "Bled," as this open country is called, was then green with young grass and dotted with patches of wild flowers, which later on spread all over the countryside like a Bedouin carpet of many colours.

At intervals, along the roads, there are small "Auberges" and farms, with their dovecotes and pigeon houses, and here and there a few stacks of hay, the scanty harvest of the year. There is evidently but little profit for the French colonist out of this hard-bitten, brown African world which is five centuries and many miles away from his beloved France.

After skirting the coast for about 60 miles we reached Mazagan, one of the forgotten settlements which still bear witness to the enterprise and daring of the old Portuguese adventurers, who, in the sixteenth century, opened up the Atlantic Coast of North Africa to European trade. There are several other cities on this coast, but none that bear with more nobility of character the marks of a former great civilisation.

In Mazagan the ancient brass cannon on the crenulated fortification still point their muzzles grimly out to sea. The narrow grass-grown streets, the high blank walls embellished with picturesque doorways, the fine Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, the old Watch Tower and the vaulted

guard room below, all bear witness to the greatness of the adventurous Portuguese.

After Mazagan, the road leaves the coast and proceeds in a southward direction towards Marrakesh, which is situated at the intersection of several passes leading through the slopes of the Lower Atlas. Gradually the landscape became broken and rocky as we neared the snow-capped mountain ranges, which appeared more and more majestic as we approached our destination through a forest of graceful palm trees, above which emerges in the distance, in all its magnificence, the great Katoubia Tower, dominating the city, and visible for miles around.

I do not think that any general description of Marrakesh can be adequate. It is a kind of dream city, a jumble of sand and palms, heat and dust, beauty and misery.

The Moors call it Marrakesh "the Red," owing, no doubt, to the colour of its walls. They are golden brown, save at sunset, when they glow crimson beneath the purple and white reflections of the distant snows. This is a pleasant place in which to idle, full of the subtle charm of Africa with the added magic of the surrounding desert and the haunting Atlas peaks.

Even the excellent hotel, replete with every modern luxury, is designed in harmony with the local decorative tradition.

The city was founded by Youssef Ben Jachfine in 1066, and its prosperity increased and reached its height in the twelfth century, when the Katoubia mosque, with its famous tower, the finest example of a Moorish minaret, was erected.

The reason why the slender circular minarets of Constantinople and Cairo failed to penetrate Western Islam is not clear, but the square based, solid-looking campanile, which is exemplified by the Giralda Tower of Seville, is common, with variations, through Morocco and Algeria. Of these the Katoubia is the classic example. Its large surfaces, effectively decorated by a trellis-work pattern of coloured tiles, apparently add to its height; whilst the gradual tapering of the edifice from base to summit gives an appearance of lightness and elegance in spite of its massive proportions. Unlike the church towers of Europe, those minarets carry no bells, but are terminated by a platform accessible from a narrow internal staircase from which the Muezzin chants his monotonous call to prayer. The turret surmounting the

edifice supports a mast, to which flags of symbolic colours are hoisted on Feast days.

There were three identical towers built by Joussef Jakoub El Mansour, but only the Katoubia remains to-day in its original perfection. The Hassan Tower at Rabat was never finished and the splendid Giralda at Seville, during the Renaissance, received additions which have entirely changed its character.

Like all old Moorish cities, Marrakesh is encircled by strongly fortified walls pierced at intervals by magnificent horse-shoe gateways, rich with conventional ornament, and often embellished with coloured tiles. These entrances, in their splendid scale and decorative finish, together with the square towers and beautifully ornamented tombs, are perhaps the most characteristic motifs of the mediæval architecture of Morocco.

To anyone who has seen the Alhambra and the Alcazar, a visit to the Saadian Tombs will recall many characteristic features of Moorish architecture in Andalusia. It is a matchless work of art, faultless in proportion and exquisite in detail. For generations few knew of its existence, for it was the memorial of a fallen dynasty, and its safety lay in its being forgotten. We entered through a narrow opening in the outer wall and passed, without pause, into the dim silence of the tombs. Fine massive columns, blackened by age, sustain arches which uphold an ornamental dome of superb workmanship. Below lie the graves of the departed Sultans, some of marble, some of cheap plaster and others of blue and green glazed tiles. The whole interior is suggestive of the dim majesty of these powerful Moslem rulers who reigned a century and a half and claimed descent from the Prophet Mohammed himself. In the corner of the adjoining courtyard is a Moorish doorway, the entrance to a small mosque. Its delicate arch, carried on slender marble columns, casts an intricate shadow on the background. Its flanks are decorated with pierced geometrical patterns and the overhanging roof of green glazed tiles is carried by an elaborately coloured projection supported by carved cedar wood corbels.

Jama El Fna is the name of the great open square which lies in the heart of this curious African city. The clamorous life that moves with wild intensity in this place is the same to-day as it was centuries ago. It is the rendezvous of all the untamed Saharan tribes who throng here to enjoy the attrac-



SAADIAN TOMBS, MARRAKESH

tions and to applaud the story-tellers, acrobats, tumblers, dancers and snake charmers, who practise their arts amid the gaping crowd. All have their circles of admirers, eager, unsophisticated; a fantastic mixture of seething humanity.

Mere verbal description of scenes like these must always remain inadequate, for they are made up of

Adjoining the Jama El Fna are the souks, or bazaars, a labyrinth of narrow rush-covered streets and alley-ways, bordered by innumerable small booths open to the thoroughfare through which the



A STREET IN MARRAKESH

light, colour, wild music and constant movement. The multitude is composed of every mixture of African races, from the coal-black negro whose ancestors were slaves, to the blue-eyed Berber who has journeyed from his mountain fastness to riot here in urban joys. There is no colour line drawn in Northern Africa; all are true believers, and the darkest blood of the continent often flows in the veins of the greatest Sultans.



MOSQUE OF SIDI BEL ABBAS, MARRAKESH

stream of busy, excited people jostle and elbow their way amidst pandemonium of raucous cries and excited gesticulations. The sun shines through the roof of plaited grass, casting a delightful confusion of chequered shadows on the many-hued crowd below.

Every vista forms a complete decorative composition. The drinking fountains, ornamented with

shrines form a succession of pictures of which one never tires.



A FOUNTAIN, MARRAKESH

delicately coloured tiles, the variety of shops, the absence of all vulgar signs and lettering, and the highly decorated entrances to the mosques and

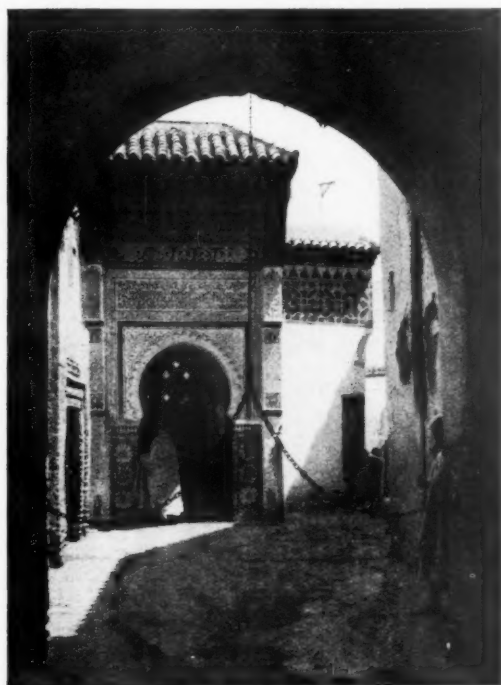
When in Egypt we had wandered through the famous Cairo bazaars, or Mouski, but here was something quite different, a civilisation utterly un-

sophisticated and apparently unaware of the presence of the few Europeans who are ignored by the native inhabitants and are never pestered for backsheesh or stared at as curiosities.

The residence of the Sharif of Tameslouht, a short distance outside the city walls, is remarkable in many ways. The castle, of no special architectural merit, rises abruptly out of the desert and is dominated by a pavilion from which one commands

a graceful pavilion rises beside it, and from its roof views extend to the distant snow-clad Atlas.

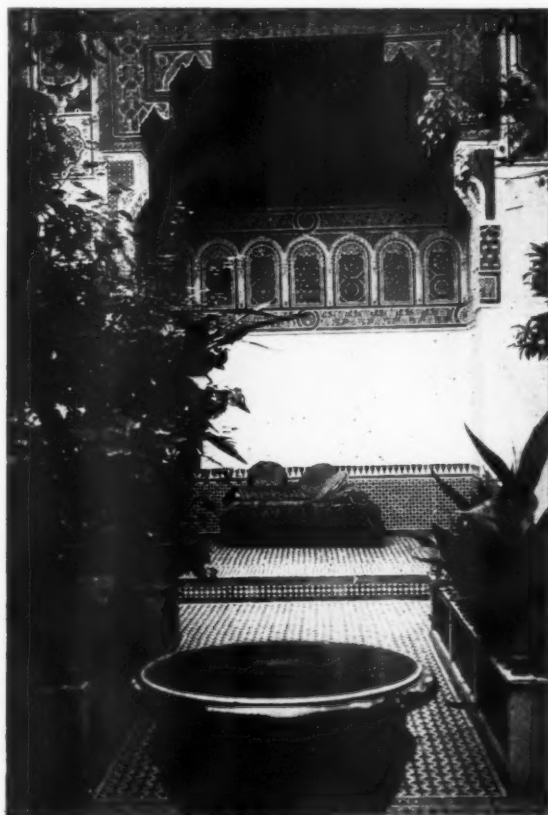
The palace of Mamounia, now a military hospital, is another excellent example of a princely habitation, somewhat reminiscent of Italy. Leading from the courtyards to the inner rooms are vaulted doorways with carved shutters enriched



ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSE OF PACHA EL GLOUT, MARRAKESH

a view of enclosed gardens planted with orange trees and magnificent cypresses, centuries old, which shelter a world of birds. In fact the whole enclosure is a bird sanctuary, and every recess in the massive walls is inhabited by happy families of blue pigeons, starlings, white doves and sparrow-hawks, which flutter about in the sun and produce an animated picture of life and movement.

The "Minara" is a walled garden of a more European type, planted with endless groves of olive trees; a wide pool of water lies in its centre,



THE BAHIA, MARRAKESH: INNER PALACE OF THE SULTAN

with geometrical designs executed in ivory, ebony, mother-of-pearl and other precious materials.

The Garden Palace, or Bahia, was built 25 years ago by Ba Ahmed, who was the Prime Minister of the reigning Sultan, and in its essentially modern atmosphere one would hardly expect to find romance, yet this is one of the most lovely spots we saw in Morocco. The cool rooms opening on to

shadowy arcades which lead to marble courts and gardens show that Ba Ahmed, son of a negro

versity, is a building worthy of the best tradition of Moorish art. In the central court a pool of trans-



MEDERSA BEN YOUSSEF, MARRAKESH

and a Jewess, a rare union even in this part of the world, was a worthy patron of the arts.

The Medersa of Youssef, the Mohammedan Uni-

lucent water reflects a noble portal with fretted mesharabiya screens and coloured tiled dado.

The interest and beauty of Marrakesh are in no

way exhausted by the few examples I have shown you, but they may be sufficient to give a general idea of the charm and appeal of that enchanting city of haunting memories.

On leaving Marrakesh we returned to Casablanca, where we had to interrupt our journey, there being no alternative route to Rabat, the principal seat of residence of the Sultan and the H.Q. of the French Protectorate.

Rabat and its rival twin city Salee (Sali), the erstwhile lair of the Barbary Corsairs, familiar to all English schoolboys as the place where Robinson Crusoe was imprisoned, are separated by a shallow river which flows into the Atlantic.

Salée, which, seen from the distance, appears as a city of gleaming silver, with terrace upon terrace of flat-roofed houses, is the older town, Rabat having been built after the Moorish occupation of Spain. In Rabat the Eastern note is dominant.

A prominent feature is an old castle, known as the Kasba Oudaiya, facing the Atlantic and overlooking Salée. High walls with battlements encompass it, and a magnificent gateway in red stone enriched with inscriptions leads to a small white village built round a mosque. Within these frowning walls, on which families of noisy storks have built their nests, a conventional garden, gay with flowers, invites repose. Passing through an archway covered with roses and Bougainvillæa, we enter a pleasant little native café, where mint tea and sweet cakes are provided to the accompaniment of quaint native music.

Older still than either Rabat or Salée, the abandoned city of Shella, originally founded by the Romans, broods over her vanished glories and now merely shelters the dilapidated tombs of departed Sultans.

The entrance is a noble example of mediæval Moorish architecture, broad in its mass, with typical Saracenic detail round the pointed arch. Behind these crumbling walls lies a memorial bearing the following epitaph:—

"This is the tomb of our Master, the Sultan, the Califa, the Imam, the Commander of the Moslems, and Defender of the Faith, the Champion, Abu El Hassan—May God sanctify his spirit and illumine his sepulchre, may God be pleased with him, and receive him into His Mercy to dwell with Him in Paradise."

The great unfinished tower of Rabat was named after this Sultan Hassan. It was probably designed

by the same architect, who was responsible for the Katoubia at Marrakesh, which it closely resembles. It stands on a slight eminence and forms a melancholy and impressive landmark visible for miles from both land and sea.

During our short stay in Rabat we were fortunate in seeing the Procession of the Sultan on the way from his palace to the adjacent mosque for Friday Prayer, a scene which might have been taken from the "Arabian Nights." The famous Sherifian Guard of negro warriors arrayed in blue, red and white, the pashas and courtiers on gaily caparisoned mules, the multi-coloured parasols and the serio-comic state gilt carriage, presented by Queen Victoria, preceded by the brass band crashing out the Grand March from "Aida," all produce an unforgettable scene of Oriental pomp and splendour. The subsequent return to the Palace *after prayer* is no less impressive, but this time the Sultan mounts a spirited Arab horse and the procession disappears within the great gateway in a cloud of golden dust to the accompaniment of the blare of trumpets.

Outside the walls the French have built a garden city of administrative offices and private villas, in the centre of which, overlooking the native town, is the Residency, where we had the honour of being received by the Governor Marechal Lyautey and his charming wife.

The arrangement of this official centre is excellent, as it provides all the accommodation required for the French Government without infringing on the rights or irritating the religious susceptibilities of the native population. The general plan is worthy of the best Beaux-Arts traditions, and the elevations are treated with a suggestion of the Moorish style in harmony with the local atmosphere. I regret that we had no opportunity to photograph this interesting architectural group, as it might have provided a useful example to our town planners when dealing with similar problems in our own Colonial possessions.

The road from Rabat to Mecknes, our next stopping place, first winds through the now familiar "Bled," which we presently left and passed through a forest of cork trees, on emerging from which we received our first impression of Mecknes with its outline of countless towers and minarets silhouetted against the evening sky.

We approached by a main road which encircles the city, runs under a ruined double archway, and

then passes the nine gates for which Mecknes is famous.

This city, with its buildings of the fantastic proportions of an Assyrian palace, is a prodigious monument to its builder, that magnificent but bloodthirsty tyrant Moulai Ishmael, the man who



MOULAI IDRIS: ENTRANCE TO THE CITY

had the temerity to demand the hand of a niece of Louis XIV. The colossal schemes he conceived were carried out by Christian slaves, who were sacrificed in thousands to his insane ambitions. His stables, the mighty arches of which still stand, accommodate 12,000 horses, and a stream of running water in covered stone gutters flowed through each stall. He even contemplated building double walls from Mecknes to Marrakesh, a distance

of some 300 miles, the traces of which are still visible. Moulai Ishmael has left behind a sinister record, but nevertheless he is to be remembered for his great architectural conceptions. He was responsible for the massive gateways, of which the Bab Mansour is the best example. They are all superb compositions in the Moorish style of the seventeenth century.

Once through the colossal portals, Mecknes is found to be a city of serenity and elegance with streets relatively straight and clean, shop fronts elaborately incised, and in the souks life, animation, and brilliant colour.

The road from Mecknes to Fez leads through a rugged country of undulating plains sparsely populated, with great open stretches which made us realise the illimitable vastness of the country.

Midway between the two towns we came upon a village of great historical renown. Perched like an eagle's nest on the summit of a rocky crag, it was built by Idris Ab Allah, the founder of the first dynasty of the Moslem rulers in Morocco. Idris was a relative of the Prophet. After having sustained a crushing defeat at the hands of the predecessor of Haroun al-Raschid, the immortal Caliph of Bagdad, he escaped into Morocco and founded Moulai Idris, which bears his name.

His fame spread all over the country and at his death the place of his exile became holy ground, and a pilgrimage for all true believers. So jealously is the sanctity of this shrine guarded, that to this day the infidel finds a cold welcome in the maze of narrow streets which wind around the resting place of the saint.

In the valley below lie the ruins of ancient Volubilis, the outpost city which marks the extreme limit of Latin penetration westwards. Roman settlements in Northern Africa, of which there are many, were purely military. Volubilis, about the size of Pompeii, was built of local stone and shows all the characteristic features of similar remains in the outlying colonies of the Roman Empire.

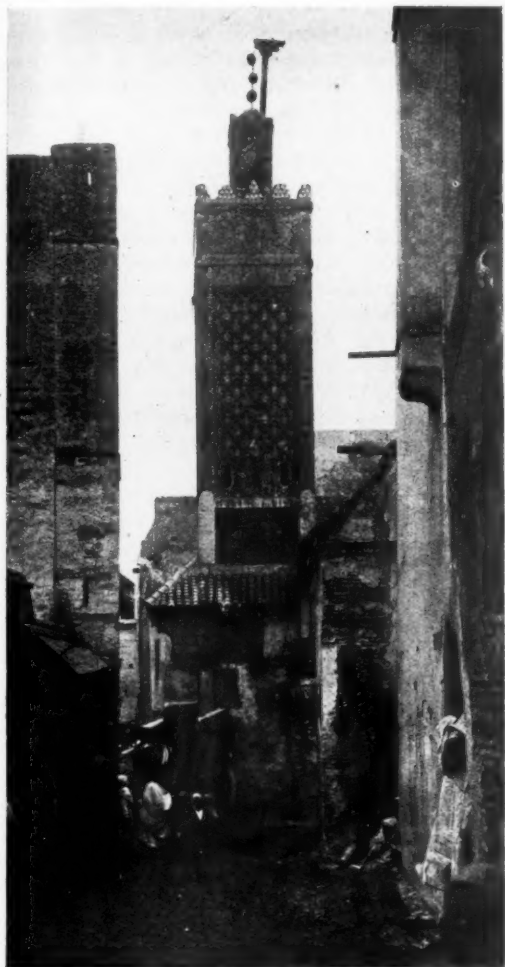
In the small museum, among the collection of fragments and details from the excavations, I was interested to find a tablet on which was inscribed:

"This stone has been erected to the glory of the Emperor Commodus by the officer commanding the levies from Britain."

Continuing our journey through bleak, open country, we approached, with feelings of high expectation, Fez the mysterious, the great capital

of Moghreb, closely guarded from the outer world for a thousand years. It is situated in a deep valley surrounded by rugged hills. From its

road skirts round the crenellated and loopholed walls without entering the city. Having passed through the great gateway, one is immediately confronted by a dense maze of narrow winding alley-ways, often incredibly steep, interlaced with-



FEZ: MOSQUE CHRABLINE

aloofness, and its inaccessible position, one realises how hazardous it was for strangers to attempt to penetrate its secrets before the French conquest, about 15 years ago.

The only means of traversing the old Moorish capital is on foot or on horseback, as the modern



FEZ: FOUNTAIN NEDJARINE

out plan, slippery, evil-smelling and teeming with vigorous life. In many cases the houses are built right over the footway, forming tunnels, some of them of considerable length. Mysterious sounds of invisible running water are heard, produced by the many streams which pursue their courses under the dwellings and feed a multitude of fountains in the courtyards.

Imagine, if you can, a city of 120,000 souls

without a single road wide enough for a carriage, much less a motor-car, to drive through, and where even a casual stroll is impossible without a guide.

In the region of the souks the animation amounts to a frenzy. Endless rows of open-fronted stalls fringe the streets devoted to trade, and in these are exhibited carpets, harness, silks, copper ware, leatherwork, strange fruits, the whole speckled by the sunlight which filters through the trellis roof above.

The passers-by are hustled and jostled by the never-ceasing stream of donkeys, camels, water carriers, closely-veiled women, and barelegged Arab urchins.

In the midst of all this turmoil stands one of the great sanctuaries of the world, the tomb of Moulay Idris II, who carried on the holy work of his father and founded the original city of Fez. Strangers are warned on passing not to glance in the doorway, for fear of offending the religious scruples of the devout pilgrims gathered about its walls. However, I was fortunate enough to be taken for a short flight over the city in an aeroplane, and so was able to obtain a bird's-eye view of this unapproachable shrine in its setting. All the houses are covered with flat terraces where, as in Eastern countries, at sundown, the women gather for gossip and fresh air. At this time all males are prohibited from appearing on any roof. This is the reason why the Muezzin, who from the minaret calls the faithful to prayer, is mainly chosen from among the blind to avoid any indiscreet spying on the carefully secluded women folk in the neighbourhood.

There are many Mederas, or religious colleges, in the city, most of them with sumptuously decorated interiors. The courtyards, with their limpid fountains, are embellished with marble columns, mosaics, and cedar and lemon wood doorways, elaborately carved and inlaid.

Of the many picturesque features which occur in the tortuous streets, perhaps the most pleasing are the drinking fountains, which adorn the public ways, with their geometric designs in skilfully-blended coloured mosaics, and the green glazed tiles of their overhanging roofs.

The ever-changing stream of pedestrians, the broad shadows cast on blank white walls besplashed with shafts of bright sunlight, the narrow strip of deep blue sky seen between the jagged silhouettes

of the overhanging eaves, an occasional cypress tree suggesting the privacy of a hidden garden, all produce a colour symphony of gorgeous tones which cannot be described in words, nor can the camera give an inkling of its variety.

From Fez we proceeded towards Taza, where we were again among the slopes of the Lower Atlas Ranges. Taza we found to be a poverty-stricken place, as French enterprise has not fairly reached it. This was our nearest approach to the war zone of the Riff district where two months later Abd El Krim caused so much anxiety to our neighbours. Military outposts were dotted on the surrounding hills, and it was reassuring to see the roads patrolled by the famous Foreign Legion and efficient-looking native troops, led by French officers.

Crossing the Algerian frontier beyond Oujda, we were able to enjoy to the full extent the scenery on the road to Tlemcen. At the very border line the change was striking: there was a more intensive cultivation, the roads were shaded by trees, the farmhouses were more numerous, the vineyards better cared for. The impression was somewhat reminiscent of the agricultural districts in French Provence. But the wonderful views seen from the hills, through forests of pine and olive trees, seemed somewhat tame after the wild and rugged Moroccan scenery which we had recently travelled through.

At Tlemcen, which vied with Granada as a seat of art and learning in the fifteenth century, we were permitted, for the first time, to enter a mosque, which contains a fine courtyard, where the worshippers make their ablutions before performing their devotions.

Beyond the city, the ruins of Mansourah, surrounded by almond and olive orchards, form an impressive background for the Mansourah Tower. The back wall, the stairway, the upper platform, and the Muezzin's turret have fallen in, but the ruin, with its golden masonry glowing in the sunshine in its peaceful surroundings, has an indescribable charm.

Tlemcen is a well-known health resort and the neighbourhood is as beautiful as any to be found in North Africa.

The road, sloping down eastward, winds through orange groves and rich fields, past onyx quarries, and for 26 miles skirts along the shore of a great salt lake, until Oran, the second seaport of Algeria,

is reached. Strongly fortified, the headquarters of an army corps and a torpedo boat station, this city has no special architectural interest, and except for its Arab population it might pass for a French provincial town.

Continuing east, the Corniche Road, with mountains looming up on one side, and a dizzy drop to the Mediterranean on the other, passes through several prosperous French villages. After spending a night at Tenes we enjoyed the most picturesque part of our journey so far. Up and down, round narrow hairpin bends, with nothing to prevent the car diving hundreds of feet into the sea, the Corniche Road winds through well-wooded gorges and wild country until the aspect changes and a stretch of macadam with tramlines brings us into the suburbs of Algiers, the capital of the colony.

This city should be approached from the sea, as the harbour is renowned for its magnificent setting. Row upon row of houses built in terraces give the appearance of a gigantic amphitheatre rising from the Mediterranean.

Algiers reminds one of a French town, although turbanned Arabs and veiled women stroll along its boulevards.

In striking contrast the Kasbah, the old Turkish quarter, with its ancient gabled houses almost meeting overhead and leaning wearily on high wooden struts, appears untouched by Western civilisation. Its narrow lanes are steep, picturesque and indescribably dirty. There are many good examples of mosques, and these are not closed to unbelievers as in Morocco.

In the modern quarter, reminiscent of the Riviera towns, we admired the fine municipal buildings, of which the Post Office is a good example.

Dominating the city and commanding a view of the harbour, the Kasba or castle, now a Zouave barracks, is well worth a visit. One of its entrances is overlooked by a small observatory from which the Dey could spy on his subjects entering and leaving the palace and amuse himself by throwing coins to the crowds below.

Inside one finds a confusion of courts and great reception rooms decorated in a florid Turkish style, and a small projecting loggia is shown to the visitor as the room in which, after a heated discussion, the Dey of Algiers insulted the French ambassadors, thus causing the war which resulted

in the ultimate conquest of the country, after an heroic resistance led by the Sheik Abd-el-Kader.

In Algiers there are a number of palaces and private dwellings which bear eloquent witness to the high artistic achievements of the ancient rulers. Among these the "Bardo," formerly the Harem of the Bey of Algiers, contains a delightful garden surrounded by cool marble arcades, enlivened by coloured tiled decorations and murmuring fountains.

The Djenan el Mufti, or Garden of the Councillor, laid out more than 300 years ago, is another well-preserved and complete example of mediæval Arab architecture and garden design.

Constantine, our next important stopping place, is situated about 2,100 feet above sea level. Built on a succession of huge crags, divided to a depth of 1,500 feet by chasms and perpendicular ravines, it is distinguished by many fine bridges, large viaducts and tunnels through the rocks.

The French took the city after a desperate assault in 1837, and this event is considered to be the culminating effort of the Algerian campaign. That this was no easy task can be realised when one examines the extraordinary natural defences which protect Constantine on all sides.

We spent a morning here wandering through the picturesque Jewish quarter, where the inhabitants differ in dress and appearance from the Moham-medan community.

In every city in North Africa there is the Mellah or Ghetto, where the Jews are segregated as they were in Europe during the Middle Ages. Until the French conquest liberated them, they were treated as a servile and despised race, and were forced to wear distinctive costume and were subjected to every indignity. In their features and their bearing they still show the marks of centuries of oppression. The women, in bright attire, walk abroad unveiled, while the men ply their trades and carry on their numerous vocations in an indescribable atmosphere of squalor and noise.

After a short stay in Constantine we resumed our journey, passing through miles of fertile but treeless country.

This aspect gradually changed, and we were soon amid mountainous scenery again. At Ham-mam Mas Kutine we saw the hot sulphur springs and their strange lime deposits, whose medicinal virtues were well known to the Romans.

Leaving Bone, a flourishing fortified port, and journeying south, we crossed into Tunisia, where the Romans built many of their cities, notably one at Dougga, now a poor Berber village.

The most conspicuous landmark is the Capitol, one of the finest ruined temples in Tunisia. It is approached by a lofty flight of steps and consists of a cella with a Corinthian portico of 6 columns, over which is an inscription dating to the time of Marcus Aurelius.

It would take too long to describe all these ruined cities, of which Timgad and Djemila are the best known, but I cannot resist the temptation of showing you a few pictures of these remains of Roman greatness.

Tunis, a thriving city of a quarter of a million inhabitants, shows a striking contrast between the Eastern and the Western developments.

Here are broad boulevards, planted with magnificent fig trees, close to narrow souks, in which every unpleasant odour assails the nostrils.

The Belvedere gardens afford a splendid panorama of the old city, the lake of Tunis where flocks of flamingoes disport themselves, the distant hills, the cathedral of Carthage and along the coast small white villages like jewels gleaming in the sunshine.

The palaces, as in Algiers, are mostly of a debased Turkish style and contain tasteless European furniture of an ornate character.

At a short distance outside Tunis lies the site of ancient Carthage, once the proud Queen of the Seas. Of this great metropolis nothing remains, and the exact situation of its two famous harbours is still doubtful. The hill on which it is assumed the Acropolis stood is disfigured by a large and indifferently designed modern cathedral, perpetuating the memory of Louis the Saint, who was buried here. The views from the terrace are magnificent, and reach to the distant hills, truly a noble setting for the city of Hamilcar Barca.

But, alas, only a few rare fragments found among the excavations recall the vanished glories of ancient Carthage.

In the monastery of the White Fathers near the Cathedral we saw a few Punic inscriptions and some votive stones on which were carved in coarse

bas-relief representations of Tanit, the goddess of the moon.

Her right hand is extended with the palm outstretched, and on her head she wears a crescent with its horns pointed heavenwards.

The early followers of Mohammed adopted both symbols, changing the first into the hand of Fatima, which turns away the evil eye, and the second into the Crescent of Islam, the emblem of their religion.

About 100 years after Carthage was destroyed the Romans returned and founded a new city, some fragments and bas-reliefs of which are to be seen in the Museum.

The holy city of Kairwan, a five hours' motor drive due south, is one of the most curious towns in Tunisia, purely Oriental, most of the mosques dating from the Turkish period.

The handsome minaret of the Barbier mosque rises as a massive block of masonry and is surmounted by a super-structure in two tiers, terminated by a small circular dome. This is one of the great sanctuaries of the province.

Tozeur, still further south, a small town built in an oasis of the shores of lake Djerid, is famous for its baked mud houses, mostly one-storeyed.

The geometric ornamentation in brick network is curiously Byzantine in character.

We had now completed the African part of our journey and it was with feelings of great regret that we said "good-bye" to the mysterious continent.

We had travelled with speed and comfort through some of the most inhospitable districts of North Africa, which before the advent of the French rule would have meant an expedition fraught with much discomfort and possible danger. You will, no doubt, realise that it is impossible in this paper to give you anything but a brief description of these fascinating countries and that I was necessarily obliged to omit many descriptions which might have added to the interest of this paper.

I cannot conclude without a grateful reference to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, whose unfailing courtesy and efficient organisation enabled us to enjoy this delightful tour without a single delay or mishap.

Discussion

SIR BANISTER FLETCHER, F.S.A., VICE-PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Sir JOHN W. SIMPSON, K.B.E. [F.]: I have been asked to express our thanks to Mr. Davis for the delightful account he has given us of his travels in French North Africa. With our thanks, I think, is mingled just a grain of envy—the envy that is without malice—that he should have had the good fortune to make so delightful a voyage, and that we should not have been there.

We have been in fairyland to-night. We have been lifted out of the commonplaces of our daily life, we have set aside for a moment the grim utilities of European architecture and have stepped into the fantastic realms of the Thousand and One Nights. With us are the shades of Haroun al-Raschid, that great Caliph, attended by his Grand Vizier Giafar, and that singular professional person, Massroux, who was not only an expert headsman but the chosen companion of the monarch. I thought for a moment, in the half-light, that I saw a glimpse of Set Zobeida and the beautiful Scharazade. Aladdin is, perhaps, in one of the architectural schools, anxious, as always, to exchange the seven old lamps of Architecture for new ones. And the Forty Thieves, of course, are still outside awaiting the completion of a pending event in order to be admitted and registered. They were a mighty race, these Moors: very great people, whose kingdom extended from Fez and the Atlantic Ocean on the west, to Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad, Basra, and the very confines of Afghanistan. Not only did they influence the architecture of Spain, where they established themselves for nearly 800 years, but their tradition crossed the Atlantic with Cortez and Pizarro, and we find, in Lima and the cities of Spanish South America, the colour, the poetry, and the gardens which are so important a feature of Moorish architecture. And those enormously enriched surfaces which, seen in drawing or photograph, are intolerably restless, take on simplicity and breadth when they are seen in the blazing sunlight for which they were intended. You must never judge Moorish architecture, or the Spanish version of it, unless you have seen it in its proper setting. The Moors made the architecture of Spain more distinctively stylistic than that of any country in Europe.

There is nothing more detestable than long speeches from the people who follow a lecturer. I loathe listening to them myself, and I hate still more having to give them. But though my remarks are brief, I hope Mr. Davis will not take their brevity as a measure of our gratitude to him to-night. It is a very great pleasure to me to propose to you a vote of our sincere thanks to Mr. Davis for his lecture, and with that, as the toastmasters say in the City, I venture to couple the name of his charming wife, to whom we owe so many of the photographs which have contributed very largely to our entertainment.

Mr. MARTIN S. BRIGGS [F.], in seconding the vote of thanks, said: I suppose there must be a good many people in this room who have seen a more Eastern counterpart of this Moorish architecture. Personally, I am glad Mr. Davis calls it Moorish. I believe purists object to that word, as to "Saracenic" and possibly "Mogul," because, they say, all this architecture has an underlying

religious thread and should be called "Moslem," or "Mohammedan." That may be, but the Moors represent a definite province of this Mohammedan architecture, the school of Spain and of the Northern African countries. I like to think of the Syro-Egyptian school, that is, the school of Syria and Egypt, as Saracenic. It carries us back to the times of the Crusades.

It seems a long way to North Africa from here, and it is not as familiar to some in this room as Egypt, where so many men were sent at His Majesty's expense during the War. But the nearest mosque to London—barring that at Southfields—is at Cordova or in Algiers, or at Trebinje, a place I saw a month ago in Herzegovina; they are all about a thousand miles away as the crow flies.

There are one or two questions I should like to ask Mr. Davis.

I have heard doubts expressed as to the way in which the ancient monuments of these countries have been preserved since the French occupation. Apparently nothing could have been worse than the way they were treated during the Turkish occupation, which extended to 1830 in Algeria and 1880 in Tunis. Have the French handled those monuments as carefully and sympathetically as one would expect?

I also ask Mr. Davis if he can tell us how the modern French buildings, in that curious style that has been adopted, struck him as a critic; whether he was pleased to see imitation Moorish buildings going up, or whether he would have preferred something more definitely European. Perhaps he can tell us whether he has any knowledge as to the way in which the old Moorish buildings were erected. For instance, were there such people as professional architects? Not exactly that, perhaps, but does he think there were people at that time whom one would call architects? Was there evidence on the inscriptions which he saw as to this, and were any buildings signed?

Dr. J. W. MACKAIL: What thrilled me as a layman in the delightful photographs was the fresh proof of the enormous energy and vitality of Rome, as shown by those Roman remains, where no attempt was made to alter the European tradition, which was carried through by main force into Africa, as it was over the whole Roman world. These buildings, even in their ruins, seem nearer to us and more intimately connected with civilisation than any architecture, either the Oriental or the mixed kind, such as possibly, in the course of the revolutions of the next century, may extend into Europe as a sort of return gift for all that Europe has done, of good and harm, to Africa. Of course, in the Roman time Africa was one of the richest provinces, but, otherwise, from its agricultural and mineral wealth, not an important one. The greatness of Carthage is one of the curious and not wholly explainable phenomena of history. It was a purely commercial city, deriving immense wealth from its absolute control of the whole of the commerce and trade of the Western Mediterranean, and when that maritime supremacy was once challenged and checked by the Roman Navy, the Carthaginian power went down before a European rival like a house of cards. The end was delayed for

many years by the immense genius of a single Carthaginian, Hannibal, but, apart from that, the issue of the contest was never doubtful, and the result was the total destruction of Carthage. Yet the natural advantages of that rich Northern African district were so great that again and again Carthage rose from its ruins and became a flourishing State, and at the time of Augustus it was probably larger and more wealthy than it had been during the Carthaginian periods. From Carthage a Vandal fleet in the 5th century went across to Italy and sacked Rome. Such are the revolutions of human history.

If you travel down farther you come to those half-fabulous episodes in which crusades or European raids were made by Charlemagne and his Palladins, such as are described, with intense vividness and magic, in the great epic romance of Ariosto. There was the crusade of St. Louis, and the crusade of Emperor Charles V; and, after that, as Mr. Davis has said, the safety of the architectural remains in that Moroccan and Algerian country was secured by neglect.

The CHAIRMAN: I have much pleasure in formally putting this vote of thanks, which has been proposed by Sir John Simpson and seconded by Mr. Martin Briggs, to Mr. Davis for his Paper to-night, and to Mrs. Davis.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very well acquainted with the part of the world which the lecturer has been dealing with. It is now 15 years since I visited Algeria, so many of Mr. Davis's pictures brought back to me very pleasant memories of that part of Africa. I must have been in Morocco when Mr. Davis was there, just before the trouble with the Rifi, and I remember particularly my visit to Rabat, which is the French headquarters, where I saw Marshal Lyautey, who was very kind to us. I was very much struck with the method which the French have adopted in dealing with the old cities of Morocco. As I think Mr. Davis told us, they leave the old cities completely alone and build new ones alongside, or within a reasonable distance, which seems to be the proper way of dealing with the old cities of the East. It is impossible to drive modern streets through these interesting old bazaars.

It is an extraordinary thing—I do not know whether Mr. Davis found it so—but in Morocco it is impossible to go into any mosque. Marshal Lyautey was invited to go into the Great Mosque at Fez, but he declined; he knew that the natives really do not want any infidel of a Christian to go into one of their mosques, and though he was honoured by being asked he did not accept. I think that fact explains the hold the French have in Morocco.

When you think of North Africa, you think of it as Saracenic, the word I prefer, or as Roman, and Mr. Davis has dealt with the Saracenic aspect of these wonderful old cities. To my mind, it is the Roman cities of North Africa which really appeal to us, and nothing I have ever seen in any part of Europe or of Africa has made such an impression upon me as that wonderful old city of Timgad, which has come down to us in almost perfect preservation, with its houses, its baths, its great system of drainage, just as it was left so many hundreds of years ago by the old Romans themselves.

I should like to express my own personal pleasure at the delightful lecture which Mr. Davis has given us.

Mr. DAVIS, in reply: I should just like to make a

few remarks on the pictures I have shown you to-night. There is one thing missing in all of them, and that is colour. From photographs no one can visualise the beauty of the colouring of these buildings in their proper setting: the trees, the flowers and the inhabitants in their multicoloured robes—they must be seen. And that is where I do not agree with our Chairman when he said he thought the Roman architecture was the more interesting. What appealed to my wife and myself so much was to see the mediæval architecture with apparently mediæval people, dressed as they were in the Middle Ages, thus giving life to the streets. The Roman buildings are a wonderful monument to a dead and departed race, but we saw, in Morocco and Algiers, mosques and palaces, shops and houses inhabited by a people who looked the same as when the buildings were originally erected. When you travel in Italy, France and Spain to-day I think you always feel a little disappointed when you see the beautiful old cities with people walking about in modern dress. One feels there is something out of harmony. But in Morocco the visitor is taken back to the Middle Ages; he feels he is really living the life of people of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

With regard to Mr. Briggs's questions, I think Sir Banister Fletcher has answered them for me. The French have been very careful, especially in Morocco, to preserve the old buildings. When they conquered Algeria, 60 years ago, they were not so particular, and one is rather disappointed because one comes across little cities, like French provincial towns, in which Arabs are sitting about and drinking in the cafés. But in Morocco they have had the genius to deal differently with the native towns. Marshal Lyautey has gained the sympathies of the Chiefs and Sheiks of the tribes; he understood their prejudices and their religious views and took care that they should be respected; he made no attempt to interfere with either the life or the architecture of the inhabitants. The French say, "We are here, we are occupying the country in a military way; we will erect our administrative centres, but we will build them outside the city." By doing that they have earned the admiration and respect of all the Moorish inhabitants. As for the Marshal himself, he was the most popular man in North Africa.

To return to architecture, I think this Moorish or Saracenic architecture is interesting, and can be compared more to our mediæval architecture than to anything else. Because of their different traditions and their religious prejudices, which forbade them to use any representation of human beings or animals, the Moors had to confine their decoration to geometrical designs and beautiful coloured effects. They worked in much the same way as did our great cathedral builders in Europe; that is to say, they were hampered by the lack of machines which were well known to the Romans, and so they were unable to employ heavy materials. The whole effect is that of a great lightness and delicacy, almost a feminine delicacy. If one can compare their architecture and their art to anything we know, it is to early Gothic and Byzantine work.

Our greatest disappointment was Carthage. We had heard and read so much about it that we had hoped to see at least some vestige of that great city and its civilisation, but absolutely nothing remains except a few fragments in a room half the size of this one.

The Architect in History*

BY J. ALFRED GOTCH, HON. M.A. (OXON), F.S.A., P.P.R.I.B.A

The object of Mr. Briggs's book, as its title implies, is to shew the kind of position architects have held in the world, alike as to their training, their methods, their remuneration and their social status; and a very interesting study it is. The mediæval architect is shrouded in much obscurity, but Mr. Briggs is persuaded that he was a separate entity, and not a body of persons working on traditional lines. He advances good arguments to support his view, but more definite information will have to be obtained before any certainty on this point can be reached. It is tolerably clear, in regard to England, at any rate, that in the great building age of Elizabeth and James although there was usually a surveyor who produced the whole conception—certainly the plan and not infrequently the elevation—yet the designs for the details of the various trades were provided by the craftsmen themselves, a method of procedure which has much to recommend it. It is also beyond question that the workmen received comparatively few drawings and no great amount of supervision.

The nebulous state of the mediæval architect is exchanged for one of considerable clarity when the period of the Italian Renaissance is reached. The architect received an extensive training, not only in architecture, but in subjects nearly and even remotely connected with it, as may be gathered from Mr. Briggs's careful survey of this period. His personal influence increased amazingly, and eventually honours were paid to some of the craft comparable to those bestowed upon the most renowned conquerors. With the honours came affluence, and even wealth, a minor matter (of course) in comparison with the satisfaction engendered by the pursuit of art, yet one calculated to inspire sombre reflections in many architects of the present age when comparing yesterday with to-day. The changed condition of the world is also forcibly brought to mind when contrasting the select number of accomplished architects of old with the difficulty now experienced in preventing the designation of architect being assumed by persons whose chief and sometimes only claim to use it is their wish to do so.

The status of the architect in France under the Renaissance is next considered, and controversial matter in regard to the share of Frenchmen and Italians in designing the fine buildings of the Francois I period is dealt with. There is no need to enter the controversy here, but Mr. Briggs writes with restraint

and judgment that lend weight to his views. So also does he in dealing with architects of the Renaissance in England, with the Thorpes and Smithsons, in connection with whose activities there are many gaps to be filled, and then with Inigo Jones and Wren, and the few other seventeenth century architects. Needless to say, the expression of views does not necessarily carry conviction, but here they are lucidly given and without over-insistence. A small correction may perhaps be allowed; it is stated that Inigo Jones used models, but there can be little doubt that the two "models" referred to were plans which are preserved among those at Worcester College. The word was often used in this sense at that period, and it appears in the quotation from Henry IV, Part II, given by Mr. Briggs.

We first survey the plot, then draw the model. Another caution may not be out of place, and that is in connection with what Inigo Jones says of himself in *Stonehenge Restored*. That treatise was not written by Jones, but by Webb from "some few indigested notes of Jones," and although the substance of the words may be perfectly true, they are not so much what Jones says of himself as what Webb puts into his mouth.

The subject of English architects is carried down through the eighteenth to the nineteenth century, and concludes a book that is of unusual interest to architects. It shews a wide range of reading and research, is enlivened by a number of anecdotes of famous architects, and in its survey of his brethren of the past, may well make the architect of to-day proud of his calling.

*. Mr. Briggs has dedicated his book "To the Royal Institute of British Architects."

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE 1927.

The proceedings of the Conference which began with a largely attended reception in the Galleries of the R.I.B.A. on the evening of the 20th, and the inaugural meeting of which was held on the following morning, when Mr. Walter Tapper (President Elect) read the address of the retiring President (Mr. E. Guy Dawber), who, to the regret of every member of the Conference, was unable to be present owing to illness, and Mr. Maurice E. Webb followed with a Paper on Architectural Education. During the week various visits were paid to interesting buildings, while on Wednesday afternoon a well attended garden-party was given at Hampton Court in beautiful weather.

Reports of the whole proceedings will be published in the next issue of the JOURNAL.

**The Architect in History*. By Martin S. Briggs. Clarendon Press, Oxford.

History of Art at the Universities*

BY PROFESSOR A. M. HIND, SLADE PROFESSOR OF FINE ART AT OXFORD.

In his address at the annual meeting of the National Art Collections Fund on 9 June, Sir Robert Witt rightly emphasized the need of adequate study of Art History in our Universities, and a letter from Mr. Sidney Paviere in *The Times* of 13 June, makes a direct appeal to Oxford to take some action.

As I am now at the end of six years' work at Oxford in the Slade Chair, I should like to record briefly the results of my experience in this matter, and to summarize the efforts which are being made towards realizing the objects in question. My own election in 1921 to the non-resident professorship occurred after the failure of very considerable efforts on the part of the University Committee for the Fine Arts (established in 1918, chiefly for this purpose) to found a Diploma. The scheme formulated fell through as support (moral rather than financial) was lacking to provide a resident professor, a condition which was regarded as essential to the proper working of the scheme.

At the end of my first year, keeping the former failure in view, I brought forward proposals which aimed in the first place at the peaceful penetration of certain other schools and at the establishment of lectures on the History of Architecture and Renaissance Art, in the hope that such study might be included as special subjects in the Final School of Modern History; and, in the second place, at the ultimate revival of the Diploma. The first aim has been partially realized by the organization of four series of lectures on architecture, for each of which the University has granted £100 in successive years. It would be eminently desirable if some amateur of architecture would offer to perpetuate the series and endow what might fittingly be called the Wren Lectureship in Architecture.

The second point, however, i.e., the inclusion of some art subject in the History School, is still unrealized, except in so far as a new special subject of the Renaissance is being introduced next year, in which is included the study of Leonardo and Raphael on the basis of Vasari's *Lives*. With regard to the Diploma, a more limited scheme, dealing exclusively with the History of Medieval and Modern Art, has been recently outlined, and its conditions are at present at issue between the Committee for the Fine Arts and the General Board of the Faculties. I feel at liberty to say that the crux of the problem is the qualification required from the intending student.

I do not think that the History of Art by itself can compete with the great literary, historical, and philosophical schools of the University, and it would be a great pity if premature specialization should mar a broader education. Moreover, to those who are not taking up the study of art as a profession, I think it is better done alongside other studies, such as that of Modern History, or even left like Music to the less sullied enjoyment of leisure hours. It should certainly not be given a place

in University study as a soft option. The chief justification for some discipline in art history and critical method, lies in the increasing interest in museums, and in the advisability of giving future keepers, directors, or lecturers the right basis and direction for their special duties. The field is necessarily a small one, but it is gradually increasing as provincial municipalities begin to show more enlightenment in the selection of their museum staffs.

The question resolves itself into whether the Diploma shall be (a) post-graduate, or (b) part of a degree course. The ideal, in my opinion, is (a), but it must occasionally depend on whether a fourth or fifth year can be afforded for the study; and, if it cannot, on whether the standard under (b) can be kept sufficiently high.

Whatever the decision of the University on the institution of the Diploma, as at present proposed, or in some modified form, the further question of the residence of the Slade Professor, is inevitably bound up with it. I began my work at Oxford in considerable distrust of academic study of art, and in general agreement with the idea that the chief need was for a professor from the outside world of art to encourage the appreciation of art in general. My conclusion, now that my work there is finished, is that this aim is good, but not of the first importance in the University. The undergraduate has little time in these days to devote to subjects which are not in some way encouraged by the curriculum of his school. The undergraduate or graduate demands consideration before the general audience that art lectures may attract, and I conclude on that account that the professor should devote his efforts chiefly to developing his subject in relation to University studies. This can hardly be done by a non-resident, and, to secure a resident professor of the requisite prestige, half-measures in the increase of the present emoluments might be a danger rather than an advantage. His work for some years would naturally be more restricted than that of many other professors, but the encouragement of research (part of the justification of every professorship) cannot be measured in terms of hours devoted to pupils, and the beginning of a new study would inevitably demand much spade work from which other schools are now free. I should deprecate the loss of visiting lecturers from the outside world of art, but the Committee for the Fine Arts now have machinery for direct application for grants for the provision of such lectures. If the Slade Professor is left in his present status, he will be side-tracked, and become of no moment in the direction of University study, when he should, I think, be the centre of inspiration.

Much will depend on the election of my successor in the autumn. He will still be elected under the old non-resident conditions for the usual term of three years, but the direction of his interests and sympathies will be of the greatest moment in the future development of the Chair, and in giving encouragement or obstruction to the foundation of some serious study of the History of Art.

* From *The Times*, Wednesday, 15 June.

BAD BUILDING.*

The following letter by Mr. E. Guy Dawber, A.R.A. (The President), appeared in *The Times* on 13 June :—

The letters of Sir William Forwood and Lord Leconfield in your issues of yesterday and to-day† are sad reading, but they only voice the feelings of many of their fellow countrymen who see the rapid destruction of the beauty of our country proceeding apace and unheeded.

There is no gainsaying the fact that to the bulk of the people of England it is a matter of absolute indifference ; were it otherwise, public opinion, the Press, and meetings of protest would try to stop it, but until this is done and some system of control put in force, it will go on unchecked.

The cause of the deplorable condition to-day of the building of the vast numbers of small houses in every direction is that the control of the designs, and in many cases the making of them, is and has been in the hands of people unfitted for the work. I say this without the least intention of being offensive, but is it not unreasonable to expect lay committees of local tradesmen, farmers, and others to pass, criticise, or condemn plans or drawings laid before them without the least technical knowledge of what the buildings may look like in execution, or only acting upon the advice of their surveyor, who may doubtless possess a sound knowledge of roadmaking and sewerage works, but in many cases is without the least aesthetic or architectural training ? One might as well expect the same committee to prescribe the treatment of the cases in their local hospitals, with perhaps the matron to advise them.

There are scores of small houses scattered throughout the country, built within the last few years, which are a pleasure to look at, simple and unaffected, suitable to their surroundings, and in every way an addition to the beauty of the countryside, but these are by architects of sympathy and understanding, and form but a negligible fraction of those that are built by speculative tradesmen or builders, and which are offensive and stupid in their meaningless vulgarity. These are the houses we see on every side.

It is difficult to understand that without the least protest the country should see what is nothing short of a national disaster going on before its eyes. What Sir William Forwood says about the Lake country applies with equal force in other districts. What will happen to the Chyngton estate, near Seaford, Lord Leconfield only too truly predicts. What is happening throughout the South Coast, where tracts of exquisite country are ruined, is known only too well. The peaceful country of the Broads in Norfolk is rapidly being spoilt, and on the River Thames and numerous other places the quiet charm has been lost by the ill-considered buildings which are being put up.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England is devoting its energies towards trying to remedy this condition of things, and to get some proper system of

control over the designs of these new buildings, and in its efforts it appeals for the support of the public, as, unless steps are taken quickly, it will be too late.—Yours faithfully,

E. GUY DAWBER, A.R.A.,
Vice-President of the Council for the Preservation
of Rural England.

18 Maddox Street, Hanover Square, W.1.

Correspondence

THE INFLUENCE OF RATES OF EVAPORATION
ON STONE DECAY.

Heriot-Watt College,
Edinburgh.
12 May 1927.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR,—I have already published in your JOURNAL an account of the experiments which I have made on the rates of drying out from surfaces of stone, brick, and mortar after they have been soaked with rain, and the bearing of this upon brick and stone decay, though I believe I cannot claim to be the first to realise the importance of this question, as the possibility of infection from mortar had already been mentioned by Dr. Stradling in his lectures.

The whole matter can be summed up in the following propositions :—

(1) That the principal cause of stone decay in our modern cities is to be found in the attack on lime compounds, whether present in mortar, cement, limestone, or the calcite often present in sandstone, by the sulphur acids due to the burning of sulphur in coal with the formation of sulphate of lime.

(2) The crystallisation of this sulphate of lime within the surface of the stone or brick, and the breaking up in consequence of that stone or brick surface.

(3) After a wall has been soaked in rain and is drying out, the surface which is drying out most rapidly will draw water containing sulphate of lime in solution from the parts of the wall which are drying more slowly, the sulphate of lime then crystallising *in situ*.

To take a simple example of a brick wall built with ordinary mortar, the sulphur acids will attack the lime in the mortar forming sulphate of lime, and if the brick surfaces evaporate more quickly than the mortar surfaces the solution of sulphate of lime will be drawn into the bricks where the sulphate of lime will crystallise and break up the brick.

This principle, having once been recognised, has many applications and also suggests many possibilities which require further investigation.

It is evident, for instance, that the right way to use the so-called stone preservatives is to combine their use with repointing, first raking out the mortar, then treating with a stone preservative and then pointing afresh, the main purpose of the stone preservative being to reduce the rate of evaporation from the brick or stone surface.

It is also evident that the repointing of old brick and

* From *The Times*, Monday, 13 June.

† Lord Leconfield : *The Sussex Cliffs*, *The Times*, 8 June.
Sir William Forwood : *Lakeland*, *The Times*, 9 June.

stone walls requires very careful consideration, as the mortar must be more porous than the old and crumbling surface of stone and brick, and that, therefore, the use of cement is ruled out unless it is mixed with some porous material like crushed brick instead of with sand. There is more than one example to be found of the rapid decay of the stone of ancient buildings, which had endured through the centuries, by injudicious pointing of this kind.

It also has a very interesting bearing on the proposal of the Office of Works to carry out the repairs at the Houses of Parliament with Stancliffe stone, which comes from the Millstone grit, and is, therefore, of the nature of a sandstone. The sulphur acids in the London air will continue to attack the magnesian limestone which was used for the building of the Houses of Parliament, and, therefore, the question arises whether owing to the more open and porous surface of the Stancliffe stone the sulphate of lime which will be formed within the limestone will not be drawn in solution into the sandstone and there crystallise, with the result of the rapid destruction of the sandstone itself. This possibility obviously requires very careful investigation before a final decision is made as to the stone to be used for the repair of the Houses of Parliament.

This also suggests another possibility, and that is whether where we are dealing with mouldings or carvings of limestone they could not be preserved by the introduction of a rapidly evaporating surface either of sandstone or of a porous cementing material in places where they would not be visible, with a view to drawing the sulphate of lime to this new centre of crystallisation. Experiments that I have made in this direction have not so far been conclusive, as there are many practical difficulties which I have not yet been able to overcome.

There is also a further question which I think is worthy of consideration by our architects, and that is whether in building a wall of limestone which is to be exposed to the action of the London atmosphere it would not be better to introduce a vertical cellular wall construction with ventilation at top and bottom and comparatively thin stone faces so as to keep the wall dry and to encourage a certain amount of internal evaporation.

It is interesting in this connection to remember that the outer walls of the Roman villas in this country contain upright flues connected to a central heating chamber, and also that in many of our Gothic structures loose rubble has been found inside the outer wall facing. I do not know if archaeologists have any theory as to the history of this loose rubble, and I imagine that in the first instance it must have been a kind of coarse mortar concrete very loosely laid, and that owing to the crumbling of the mortar with time it has now become more open and porous. Whatever its history it must result in an internal ventilation of the wall which may tend to preserve the face of the stone from decay, and it is at any rate not impossible that the filling up of such loose rubble with liquid cement, while strengthening the wall, may increase the rate of decay of the stone face.

In this connection the methods of treating the walls at Versailles adopted by Monsieur Knapen are obviously of interest.

May I apologise in conclusion for sending you a letter which is so largely speculative and so full of queries.

All the implications of the discovery as to the rates of evaporation and their bearing on stone decay are not obvious at first, and I therefore write this letter merely to set our architects thinking on these aspects of the problem.—I am, Yours faithfully,

A. P. LAURIE.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

*New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects,
665 Broad Street,
Newark, N.J.
1 June 1927.*

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

DEAR SIR,—We are in receipt of your Journal through the courtesy of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and I cannot tell you how much we appreciate it and how deeply obliged we are to you for sending it to us so regularly.

It is of great benefit to the profession, and speaking for our Society, I will say that we believe it is doing a great deal of good in this country. We were particularly interested in what you say about the Architects' Defence Union* and we are giving it publicity with the hope that we may have something of the same kind in this country before long.—With best wishes, I remain,—Yours very sincerely,

HUGH ROBERTS,
Secretary.

* See JOURNAL of 20 November 1926

THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT COTTAGES.

The Royal Society of Arts have published in pamphlet form an Appeal by the Prime Minister for subscriptions "to assist in the establishment of a substantial fund for application on the broadest national lines in furtherance" of the movement organised by the Royal Society of Arts for the preservation of Ancient Cottages.

"At the outset, at all events," the Prime Minister states at the conclusion of his appeal, "the Society will be able to place its organisation at the service of the Fund, so that administration expenses will be reduced to a minimum and practically all the money subscribed will be available for the actual work of preservation. The scale of operations must obviously depend upon the amount subscribed to the Fund. As there are thousands of cottages throughout the country in imminent danger of demolition, I beg for a wide and generous response to this appeal. To every motorist, to every cyclist, to every pedestrian who has toured through rural England and whose eye has rested with delight on some lovely old-world cottage, I appeal for a contribution to help us in this cause; nor do I forget our good friends in America, many of whom are second to none in their admiration of our countryside, which, after all, is as much their heritage as our own."

The pamphlet contains some interesting illustrations and concludes with a note by Mr. Thomas Hardy, O.M. It can be obtained from the Secretary of the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

SIR ASTON WEBB AWARDED THE ALBERT MEDAL.

The Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded by the Council, with the approval of the President, the Duke of Connaught, to Sir Aston Webb, "for distinguished services to Architecture."

Among his works may be mentioned the new façade to Buckingham Palace, and the architectural surroundings of the National Memorial to Queen Victoria; the Admiralty Arch, Charing Cross; the completion of the Victoria and Albert Museum; the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth; the Royal College of Science, Dublin; the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington; and many other public and private buildings.

The Medal was founded in 1863 as a memorial to Prince Albert, for 18 years President of the Society, and is awarded each year "for distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures, and commerce."

ROME SCHOLARSHIPS 1927.

On the recommendation of the Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome, the Commissioners of 1851 have awarded the Rome Scholarship in Architecture for 1927 to Mr. Robert Percy Cummings, of Queensland, aged 26, a student of the Architectural Association; and on the recommendation of the same body the Royal Institute of British Architects have awarded the Henry Jarvis Studentship for 1927 to Mr. Harold Thornley Dyer, aged 22, a student of the Bartlett School of Architecture, London University.

PROFESSOR CHARLES GOURLAY MEMORIAL SCHEME.

At the Committee Meeting in the Royal Technical College, on Wednesday, 8th inst., it was arranged to unveil the Memorial to the late Professor Gourlay which is being erected in Hillfoot Cemetery, Glasgow, on 26 June 1927. The work is being expeditiously carried out by Messrs. Scott and Rae, Ltd., and the Memorial Stone will have a bronze plaque by Mr. G. H. Paulin of London, bearing a bas-relief profile of the late Professor.

It is expected that the Very Rev. Dr. Morrison, Ex-Moderator of the United Free Church will officiate at the ceremony at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, 26 June, and past students, colleagues and friends are cordially invited to be present.

While the Committee are well satisfied with the support which has enabled them to carry through this part of the Memorial Scheme they hope to obtain an annuity which will provide a yearly prize in architecture and for building to commemorate the late Professor Gourlay, and will, therefore, welcome further subscriptions to be sent to Mr. James Rodger, Honorary Treasurer, Professor Charles Gourlay Memorial Scheme, The Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

MR. RAFFLES DAVISON'S DRAWINGS.

Messrs. B. T. Batsford will shortly publish a book of Mr. Raffles Davison's drawings with a Foreword by Sir Aston Webb and a Preface by Sir Reginald Blomfield, who says that the collection "forms a delightful series, not only for the Architectural Student, but also for those who care for our old buildings. . . . He resolutely refuses all the tricks of the draughtsman, and draws with a clean, firm line that seems somehow the fit expression of the modest, yet beautiful, art of the subjects that he selects."

CENTRAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS.

An exhibition of work done at the Central School is always interesting and should be specially so to architects. In so far as this work relates more directly to the design and construction of buildings—united, in this case, to evening instruction—one wonders at the outset as to the still unsolved question of the relative values of the older and newer methods of architectural education. It appears that a large number, if not the majority, of the students of building in this school are also pupils or improvers in offices—in some cases offices run by well-known architects. Accordingly they seem to be in the fortunate position of being able to extract the best from both the old and the newer system of architectural education, a circumstance which suggests whether such a combination of two methods does not, perhaps, make for the best success. But, from the nature of the case, exact ideas are impossible. The office pupilage system, in its better aspects, produced many able practitioners of the art and business of architecture, and the more obvious defects of a system that is now being largely superseded—as the influence of the schools becomes paramount—resulted from its dependence on what may be called accidental circumstances; such as the personality and ability of the master or principal concerned; the nature and extent of his practice; the way in which he regarded, and discharged, the responsibility towards his pupil; the latter's natural bent, or otherwise, in the direction of an architectural career, and his industry and capacity to use the advantages that conditions in a particular office might afford him. Of these the most vital necessity of all is possession, by the student, of that subtle combination of qualities—practical and imaginative—without which the highest success is impossible. The hazards making for success, in such circumstances, are always many, but the gain from association with a working architect of personality, and with a talent for producing fine work (a Norman Shaw, for example), might be immense, and, in practical effect, could morally find its equivalent in school training alone. To base conclusions on exceptional cases would, however, be unfair. As compared with the common neglects, from which most office pupils suffered, it must be acknowledged that the organised and systematic instruction—well thought out, and based upon an accumulation of special teaching, and other experience—as offered by the architectural schools of to-day, much reduces the risks that attached to the former somewhat haphazard system.

To return to the specific case of the Central School, the work shown goes to confirm that a repute long ago established, in respect of sound training along the lines of traditional craftsmanship, is being sustained. Such a school, covering so many of the arts and crafts ancillary to architecture, fills a very definite need, even when looked at in relation to the exceptional educational facilities that London offers. On the side in which we may be assumed to be primarily interested, the instruction given seems to be based on the idea that architecture is evolved, naturally and logically, by trained judgment exercised through plan and construction "founded on modern needs, materials and inventions." It further leads its students to the knowledge and precedents offered by study of ancient work, and by no means neglects those aspects of real decoration that arise from the legitimate

use and right treatment of material—as all great and sincere art teaches. One has only to realise the quality of the masters in architectural design at this school, and that they work on the principles established years ago by Professor W. R. Lethaby—which, may we suggest, are now much more readily and generally accepted as valuable than was formerly the case—to be assured that the students of building are here in safe hands. The work shown expresses the basic principle of the training so given, and is essentially related to the practical requirements of actual building—devoid of the frills and unreality so often to be found in designs on paper. The block of shops and flats by A. L. Osborne is an example of the soundness of this method of approach—carefully planned and expressed in quiet, simple, brick elevations showing the right sense of what is required in the communal architecture of a street. So also C. J. Mills's "Design for an elementary school," shows "natural" building expressed in pleasing proportions, based on simple direct planning (not devoid of faults) and quite charmingly rendered; while A. S. Gray, in his Anglican church, combines constructive sense with poetical imagination, and realises the three-dimensional aspect of building in the massing of walling and roofs—a creditable study in abstract design. Other students who show good work are R. Lawes, A. B. Waters, and G. H. Willson. And though space will not permit of an extended notice of the technical excellence, in many crafts, represented at this exhibition, the advantage—in real value—gained over ordinary mechanical trade productions is very apparent. There seems, indeed, but one seriously disturbing note which leaves us wondering why such crude presentations of the human figure—purporting to be from the life—are allowed to distract us from exhibits otherwise so consistently, and so quietly, interesting.

F. R. H.

Allied Societies

THE INCORPORATION OF ARCHITECTS IN SCOTLAND.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL FOR SESSION 1926-27, SUBMITTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 3 JUNE 1927.

There have been seven Council Meetings during the Session—the average attendance being sixteen.

The following elections to Membership have been made—7 Fellows, 15 Associates, and 26 Students. The total Membership is now about 680.

The Council having considered it desirable to have in the Council Room a portrait in oil of Sir R. Rowand Anderson, the founder and endower of the Incorporation, gave the commission to Mr. John M. Aiken, A.R.S.A.

The Prizes awarded during the past Session were:—

1. *Rowand Anderson Medal and Scholarship of £100*—Mr. A. D. Cordiner, 26, Midlothian Drive, Shawlands, Glasgow; and a second prize of £20—Mr. Douglas L. Crawford, Tower Drive, Gourrock.

2. *Maintenance Scholarship of £50 per annum for 3 years*—Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Barnhill, Broughty Ferry.

3. *Third Year Students' Prize, Session 1926-27*—Mr. R. M. Noad, Glasgow School of Architecture.

In connection with the last Prize there were 22 competitors—Aberdeen, 4; Edinburgh, 6; and Glasgow, 12. The subject was a Monumental Staircase for an Embassy in a foreign capital.

In June 1926 there was sent to Headmasters of Secondary Schools and to Education Authorities throughout Scotland a circular detailing very fully the facilities for Architectural Education in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, in each of which centres there is a School of Architecture.

There was issued in September 1926 a circular on the Town Planning (Scotland) Act, pointing out to Local Authorities the desirability of engaging qualified and competent architects in connection with their town planning schemes. This circular was sent to provosts and town clerks of large burghs throughout Scotland, also to county conveners and district clerks.

Certificates of membership were, for the first time, issued to the Fellows and Associates numbering about 500. It is intended to issue at an early date certificates of membership to all the students.

On the subject of model building by-laws which are in process of being drafted, the Secretary for Scotland and the Scottish Board of Health were written to, pointing out certain differences in such bye-laws between burghs and counties and urging uniformity in these matters.

The following four representatives of the Allied Societies in Scotland have been elected to the R.I.B.A. Council for the ensuing year, namely:—Mr. G. P. K. Young, Mr. T. M. Cappon, Mr. J. K. Hunter, and Mr. T. F. MacLennan.

At the request of the R.I.B.A., their Final Examination for Scottish Candidates for Associateship was, for the first time, conducted at the Headquarters of the Incorporation during December 1926. It is intended to hold these examinations twice each year.

The Council have taken a great interest in the Architects' Registration Bill. After the Draft Bill had been sent to the Chapters for consideration, some suggestions were communicated to the Registration Committee. The printed Memorandum on the Bill drawn up by the R.I.B.A. was sent to all Scottish Members of Parliament, along with a letter asking for their support, and the President and two of the Vice-Presidents went to London at the request of the R.I.B.A. when Parliament re-assembled in February, in order to assist the Registration Committee in obtaining a place in the ballot.

Under the auspices of the Incorporation a semi-public meeting was held in March in connection with the movement for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, at which Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Bart, presided. Many public bodies were represented, and a Committee was formed to deal with the matter.

For the purpose of encouraging good architecture in town streets, the R.I.B.A. offered to present a medal every five years to the architect whose design would be considered best. Nominations have been sent in, and the award will be made before the Annual Convention, when the medal will be presented.

The Members of Council for Session 1926-27 were appointed as follows:—

PRESIDENT—G. P. K. Young, F.R.I.B.A., Perth. PAST PRESIDENT—John Keppie, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow. VICE-PRESIDENTS—Aberdeen: James B. Nicol, architect, Aberdeen; Dundee: T. M. Cappon, F.R.I.B.A., Dundee; Edinburgh: F. C. Mears, architect, Edinburgh; Glasgow: James K. Hunter, F.R.I.B.A., Ayr; Inverness: Thomas Munro, architect, Inverness. CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES—Aberdeen: R. G. Wilson, Jun., F.R.I.B.A., Aberdeen; Dundee: William Salmond, L.R.I.B.A., Dundee; P. H. Thoms, F.R.I.B.A., Dundee; Edinburgh: T. F. MacLennan, F.R.I.B.A., Edinburgh; T. A. Swan, A.R.I.B.A., Edinburgh; John Wilson, F.R.I.B.A., Edinburgh; Dr. Thomas Ross, architect, Edinburgh; J. R. McKay, A.R.I.B.A., Edinburgh; Glasgow: Geo. A. Boswell, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; Colin Sinclair, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; Andrew Balfour, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; Professor T. H. Hughes, A.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; G. A. Paterson, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; David Salmond, F.R.I.B.A., Glasgow; Inverness: J. A. Smith, architect, Inverness. INCORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES—James Shearer, architect, Dunfermline; James Lockhead, F.R.I.B.A., Hamilton; A. G. Henderson, A.R.I.B.A., Glasgow.

THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.

MAY 1927.

The Intermediate Examination qualifying for election as Student R.I.B.A. was held in London from 20 to 26 May, and in Manchester from 20 to 25 May, 1927.

Of the 85 candidates examined 30 passed and 55 were relegated. The successful candidates are as follows, the names being given in order of merit as placed by the examiners:

- HALL, ARTHUR LEONARD [P. 1924], 61 Osgate Gardens, Dollis Hill, N.W.2.
 FORD, HUGH HUBBARD [P. 1925], "Windyridge," Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
 LYONS, EDWARD DOUGLAS [P. 1925], 40 Henderson Road, Forest Gate, E.7.
 CARR, FRANK HENRY [P. 1927], 25 Byfield Gardens, Barnes, S.W.13.
 THOMPSON, ERIC [P. 1926], "Ellesmere," Wigston Fields, Leicester.
 CARTWRIGHT, THOMAS NELSON [P. 1924], 7 Pelham Crescent, The Park, Nottingham.
 HARTLAND, ERIC JOHN [P. 1925], 385 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
 PENN, COLIN TROUGHTON [P. 1926], 75 Abbey Road, Warley, Birmingham.
 MUNGEAM, REGINALD HERBERT [P. 1925], "Oakdene," Stoneleigh Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey.
 PEARSON, CHARLES EDWARD [P. 1925], 14 Highbury Place, N.5.
 COOPER, KENNETH JAMES [P. 1925], "Hollyhurst," West Hill Road, Bournemouth.
 CROSBY, EDMUND LIONEL [P. 1926], 11 Hillfield Avenue, Wembley.
 EVANS, CHARLES HERBERT [P. 1922], 106 Montherma Road, Cardiff.
 GALE ARTHUR HARRY [P. 1924], 16 Ridgdale Street, Bow, E.
 GROVE, EDWARD ATKINS [P. 1925], 28 Kings Road, Fareham.
 HARTLEY, WILLIAM SUTHERS [P. 1923], "Arenig," Brook Lane, Oldham.
 HEDGES, HAROLD MASON [P. 1919], 57 Gower Street, W.C.1.
 KING, FREDERICK STANLEY [P. 1920], 9 Whitfield Avenue, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.
 LANE, GEORGE CHARLES [P. 1921], 3 Garden Village, Newby West, Carlisle.
 LANE HOWARD ROSS [P. 1923], "Bramshaw," King's Avenue, Christchurch, Hants.
 NORTH, GUY WOOD [P. 1923], 23 Cannon Place, Brighton.
 PARKER, HEDLEY [P. 1926], 22 Addington Mansions, Highbury, N.5.
 REUBEN, SAMUEL SIMON [P. 1926], 112 Gower Street, W.C.1.
 RIDOUT, ALFRED HENRY [P. 1925], 15 Tennyson Street, Swindon.
 SHEPHERD, GEORGE HENRY [P. 1927], 39 Hillhouse Road, Huddersfield.
 SMITH, ALFRED [P. 1926], 11 Victor Street, Heywood, Lancs.
 STABLEFORD, SAMUEL HORACE SAWBRIDGE [P. 1922], 185 Fosse Road South, Leicester.
 TATTERSFIELD, LEONARD [P. 1924], "Glen Maye" Union Road, Heckmondwike.
 VAUGHAN, REGINALD [P. 1924], 15 Harrel Lane, Barrow-in-Furness.
 WHITE, EDMUND JULIAN [P. 1924], 213 Marlborough Avenue, Hull.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS: CORRECTION.

In the last issue of the JOURNAL the honour which His Majesty was pleased to confer upon Mr. C. E. Kendall was the M.B.E. [Civil Division] (not O.B.E.). Mr. Kendall was elected an Associate R.I.B.A. in 1899. The Editor much regrets the error.

THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS.

The results of the Annual Elections are recorded in the subjoined Report of the Scrutineers which was read at the General Meeting on Monday, 20 June.

The Scrutineers appointed to count the votes for the election of the Council and Standing Committees for the Session 1927-28 beg to report as follows:—

1,295 envelopes were received—442 from Fellows, 530 from Associates and 323 from Licentiates. The result of the election is as follows:—

COUNCIL, 1927-1928.

PRESIDENT.—Walter John Tapper, A.R.A. (unopposed).

PAST-PRESIDENTS.—Edward Guy Dawber (unopposed); John Alfred Gotch (unopposed).

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—Henry Philip Burke Downing (unopposed); Henry Vaughan Lanchester (unopposed); Percy Edward Thomas (unopposed); Maurice Everett Webb (unopposed).

HON. SECRETARY.—Edwin Stanley Hall (unopposed).

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.—*Elected*: Arthur Keen, 790 votes; Robert Atkinson, 785; Sir Herbert Baker, 753; Henry Victor Ashley, 671; Major Hubert Christian Corlette, 658; Walter Cave, 640.—*Not Elected*: Henry Martineau Fletcher, 536; Sir Banister Fletcher, 514; Robert Burns Dick, 492; Sir John James Burnet, 491; George Churchus Lawrence, 439; John Alan Slater, 387. 1,253 voting papers were received, of which 19 were invalid.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.—*Elected*: Harold Chalton Bradshaw, 749 votes; Michael Theodore Waterhouse, 734; Charles Cowles-Voysey, 607.—*Not Elected*: Herbert James Rowse, 558; John Douglas Scott, 421; Harold William Chester, 210; John Batty, 177; Nugent Francis Cachemaille-Day, 95. 1,253 voting papers were received, of which 26 were invalid.

LICENTIATE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.—*Elected*: Arthur Baldwin Hayward, 817 votes; Captain Augustus Seymour Reeves, 744.—*Not Elected*: Joseph William Denington, 700. 1,253 voting papers were received, of which 14 were invalid.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIED SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE IRISH FREE STATE.—*Six Representatives from the Northern Province of England*.—John Malcolm Dossor (York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Frederick Ernest Pearce Edwards (Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors); Harry Smith Fairhurst (Manchester Society of Architects); Edmund Bertram Kirby (Liverpool Architectural Society); T. Butler Wilson (Leeds and West Yorkshire Architectural Society); James Henry Martindale (Northern Architectural Association). *Five Representatives from the Midland Province of England*.—Edward Thomas Allcock (Leicester and Leicestershire Society of Architects); Ernest Chawner Bewlay (Birmingham Architectural Association); Edward Thomas Boardman (Norfolk and Norwich Association of Architects); James William Fisher (Northamptonshire Association of Architects); John Woollatt (Nottingham and Derby Architectural Society). *Four Representatives from the Southern Province of England*.—Arthur Charles Alfred Norman (Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society); Thomas Overbury (Wessex Society of Architects); John Arthur Smith (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architectural Association); Harold Sydney Rogers (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association). *Four Representatives of Allied Societies in Scotland*.—Nominated by the Council of the Incorporation of Architects in Scotland: Thomas Martin Cappon (Dundee); James Kennedy Hunter (Glasgow); Thomas Forbes MacLennan (Edinburgh); George Penrose Kennedy Young (Perth). *One Representative of the*

South Wales Institute of Architects.—Charles Samuel Thomas (Swansea). *Two Representatives of the Allied Societies in Ireland.*—Professor Rudolph Maximilian Butler (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland); Edwin Riddell Kennedy (Ulster Society of Architects).

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIED SOCIETIES IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEAS.—To be nominated by the Council of each of the following: The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Federal Council of the Australian Institutes of Architects, the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION (LONDON).—Gilbert Henry Jenkins.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS.—William Henry Hamlyn.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

CHAIRMEN OF THE ART, LITERATURE, PRACTICE AND SCIENCE STANDING COMMITTEES.

HON. AUDITORS.—Henry Albert Saul [F.] (unopposed); James Maclaren Ross [A.] (unopposed).

ART STANDING COMMITTEE.—FELLOWS.—*Elected*: Francis Thomas Verity, 826 votes; Louis de Soissons, 808; Henry Philip Burke Downing, 797; Arthur Keen, 794; Oswald Partridge Milne, 767; Harry Stuart Goodhart-Rendel, 755; Francis Winton Newman, 731; Charles Henry Holden, 674; Stanley Churchill Ramsey, 596; Philip Dalton Hepworth, 574. *Not Elected*: Sir John James Burnet, 555; Gilbert Henry Jenkins, 552; Heaton Comyn, 505; Charles Holloway James, 441; Robert Lowry, 422; George Grey Wornum, 422; George Blair Imrie, 400; Maurice Chesterton, 375; Edmund Frazer Tomlins, 243. 1,202 voting papers were received, of which 22 were invalid.

ASSOCIATES.—*Elected*: Leonard Holcombe Bucknell, 1,071 votes; William Harding Thompson, 951; Hon. Humphrey Arthur Pakington, 892; Ronald Aver Duncan, 844; Harold Chalton Bradshaw, 812; John Chiene Shepherd, 775.—*Not Elected*: Claude St. John Garle Miller, 733; Frederic Edward Towndrow, 520. 1,202 voting papers were received, of which 21 were invalid.

LICENTIATES.—Reginald Francis Guy Aylwin (unopposed); Archibald Stuart Soutar (unopposed); Francis Robert Taylor (unopposed).

LITERATURE STANDING COMMITTEE.—FELLOWS.—*Elected*: Louis Ambler, 882 votes; David Theodore Fyfe, 847; Sydney Decimus Kitson, 809; Basil Oliver, 800; Martin Shaw Briggs, 764; Arthur Hamilton Moberly, 760; Charles Sydney Spooner, 754; Henry Martineau Fletcher, 695; Major Hubert Christian Corlette, 663; William Henry Ansell, 628.—*Not Elected*: Frederick Bligh Bond, 623; Walter Cave, 620; Arthur Stanley George Butler, 587; John Murray Easton, 502; John Herbert Pearson, 461; Frederick Charles Eden, 408; Sir Alfred Brumwell Thomas, 407; Norman Evill, 287. 1,200 voting papers were received, of which 11 were invalid.

ASSOCIATES.—*Elected*: Grahame Burnell Tubbs, 859 votes; Henry Castree Hughes, 843; Charles Cowles-Voysey, 811; Professor Frank Stephen Granger, 763; Arthur Trystan Edwards, 701; Professor Lionel Bailey Budden, 688.—*Not Elected*: Eric Rawlstone Jarrett, 566; Eleanor Katherine Dorothy Hughes, 564; Charles Douglas St. Leger, 535; Ernest Jesse Mager, 380. 1,200 voting papers were received, of which 15 were invalid.

LICENTIATES.—Captain William Thomas Creswell (unopposed); Arthur Edward Henderson (unopposed); Edwin Morecombe Hick (unopposed).

PRACTICE STANDING COMMITTEE.—FELLOWS.—*Elected*: William Gillbee Scott, 797 votes; George Hastwell Grayson, 796; David Barclay Niven, 735; Frederick Chatterton, 723; John Carrick Stuart Soutar, 699; Henry Victor Ashley, 690; Gilbert Henry Lovegrove, 655; John Alan Slater, 647; Percy Edward Thomas, 611; Sydney Joseph Tatchell, 588.—*Not Elected*: Edward Charles Philip Monson, 543; Herbert Arthur Welch, 517; William Ernest Watson, 500; Edward John Partridge, 499; Edmund Bertram Kirby, 400; Arthur William Kenyon, 360; Herbert Shepherd, 339; Charles Nicholas, 315; George Arthur Lansdown, 313; Noel Dennis Sheffield, 229; Edgar Sefton Underwood, 186. 1,212 voting papers were received, of which 49 were invalid.

ASSOCIATES.—*Elected*: George Leonard Elkington, 1,062 votes; Harry Valentine Milnes Emerson, 1,046; William Henry Hamlyn, 1,018; Charles Woodward, 983; Horace William Cubitt, 935; Hubert Lidbetter, 836.—*Not Elected*: Frederick Richard Jelley, 705. 1,212 voting papers were received, of which 22 were invalid.

LICENTIATES.—*Elected*: Joseph William Denington, 1,088 votes; Frederic Roger Betenson, 874; Captain Augustus Seymour Reeves, 781.—*Not Elected*: Malcolm Waverley Matts, 568. 1,212 voting papers were received, of which 40 were invalid.

SCIENCE STANDING COMMITTEE.—FELLOWS.—*Elected*: Alan Edward Munby, 993 votes; William Alexander Harvey, 959; Major Charles Frederick Skipper, 898; Herbert Duncan Searles-Wood, 874; Lionel Godfrey Pearson, 844; Augustus Alban Hamilton Scott, 830; George Reginald Farrow, 827; James Ernest Franck, 809; Ernest Hollyer Evans, 767; John Hutton Markham, 765.—*Not Elected*: Thomas Wallis, 745; Alfred John Taylor, 684; John Edward Dixon-Spain, 638; Digby Lewis Solomon, 595. 1,207 voting papers were received, of which 15 were invalid.

ASSOCIATES.—*Elected*: Edwin Gunn, 809 votes; Robert John Angel, 798; Arnold Fielder Hooper, 741; Harvey Robert Sayer, 727; Alfred Ernest Mayhew, 694; Hope Bagenal, 681.—*Not Elected*: William Thomas Benslyn, 623; Percy William Barnett, 618; Richard Goulburn Lovell, 587; Charles Stanley White, 550. 1,207 voting papers were received, of which 12 were invalid.

LICENTIATES.—*Elected*: Percy John Waldram, 954 votes; Lieut.-Colonel Percy Alfred Hopkins, 896; George Nathaniel Kent, 894.—*Not Elected*: Louis William Jukes, 605. 1,207 voting papers were received, of which 20 were invalid.

SCRUTINEERS.—Henry Lovegrove [A.] (Chairman), E. J. W. Hider [F.], Robert Lowry [F.], Geoffrey C. Wilson [F.], Charles H. Freeman [L.], Ernest G. Allen [F.].

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Copies of a booklet entitled *China in Chaos*, have been received at the R.I.B.A. from members who are resident in Shanghai. These will be sent to those members who are interested in the matter on application to the Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

Competitions

ROSS HOUSING SCHEME.

Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects must not take part in the above competition, because the conditions are not in accordance with the published Regulations of the Royal Institute for Architectural Competitions.

PROPOSED CHAPEL IN NEW CEMETERY, COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

The Corporation of Reading invite architects practising or residing in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, or Oxfordshire to submit designs in competition for the erection of a chapel in the new cemetery at Caversham. Assessor, Charles J. Blomfield [F.]. Premiums, 50 guineas and 25 guineas. Last day for questions, 23 May. Designs to be sent in not later than 1 July 1927. Conditions of competition, instructions to competitors, and plan of the site may be obtained on application to the Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Reading, on payment of a deposit of £2 2s.

MERTHYR VALE WAR MEMORIAL COMPETITION.

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of members to the fact that the conditions of the above competition are not in accordance with the regulations of the R.I.B.A. The Competitions Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime members are advised to take no part in the competition.

STRODE PARK ESTATE HOUSE DESIGN COMPETITION.

Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects must not take part in the above competition because the conditions are not in accordance with the published regulations of the Royal Institute for Architectural Competitions.

NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BRADFORD.

The Governors of the Bradford Grammar School invite architects to submit designs in competition for the New Grammar School proposed to be erected on the Clock-house site in Keighley Road, Bradford, Yorkshire. Assessor, Mr. Arnold Mitchell [F.]. Premiums, £300, £200 and £100. Designs to be sent in not later than 30 June 1927. Particulars and plan of site may be obtained, by depositing £1 1s., from W. Brear, Secretary, Grammar School, Bradford, Yorks.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CIVIC CENTRE.

The Corporation of the City of Birmingham invite those qualified or practising as architects or town planners to submit designs in competition for laying out an area for the purposes of a civic centre. Assessor, Mr. H. V. Lanchester [F.]. First premium £1,000. Last day for questions 31 January 1927. Designs to be sent in not later than 30 June 1927. Conditions, on payment of £1 1s., may be obtained on application to the City Engineer and Surveyor, Council House, Birmingham.

LEXDEN COUNCIL SCHOOL COMPETITION.

Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects must not take part in the above Competition because the conditions are not in accordance with the published regulations of the Royal Institute for architectural competitions.

WINTHROP HALL AND OTHER BUILDINGS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Premiums £300, £200, and £100. Total cost, £150,000. Jury of adjudicators, Leslie Wilkinson [F.] (Professor of Architecture, University of Sydney), President (1926) of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia

(Mr. A. R. L. Wright, L.R.I.B.A.), and a member of the Senate, University of Western Australia. Last day for questions, 31 March 1927. Designs to be delivered to the University, at or before noon on 24 August 1927. Conditions may be obtained gratis from the Agent-General for Western Australia, Savoy House, 115-116, Strand, W.C.2.

Members' Column

CLERK OF WORKS.

MR. SYDNEY TATCHELL [F.] recommends a Clerk of Works, who has done excellent work for him, and is seeking a fresh appointment. Experienced and reliable.—Bank Chambers, 32 Strand, W.C.2.

PARTNERSHIP WANTED.

ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR, A.R.I.B.A., P.A.S.I., in Westminster, with small practice, is open to discuss partnership with another architect in similar position. Or to enter into an arrangement for sharing offices and staff.—Reply Box 1467, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

F.R.I.B.A. (42) with wide London experience, and having small connection in large suburban town near London, wishes to join a firm of architects of good standing, with a view to partnership. Can place small capital if required.—Apply Box 2517, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

LARGE light office to let in Gray's Inn, with electric light—share of waiting room, storage space, etc. Share of clerk also can be arranged.—Reply Box 1690, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

ARCHITECT (F.R.I.B.A.) wishes to let large room adjoining Lincoln's Inn, rent £70 per annum, inclusive of light and heating and fitted drawing table.—Reply Box 5331, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

ARCHITECT wishes to rent a room in an architect's office with telephone, electric light, fitted drawing table and clerical assistance when required. St. James's or Westminster district preferred. State rent.—Apply Box 2637, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

A.R.I.B.A. has spare office accommodation (close to Charing Cross), excellent light, second floor, suitable for young architect or provincial firm requiring London office. Moderate inclusive terms.—Apply Box 0484, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

Minutes XX

SESSION 1926-27.

At the Sixteenth General Meeting (Business) of the Session 1926-27, held on Monday, 20th June, 1927, at 8 p.m.

Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A., Vice-President in the chair.

The attendance book was signed by 18 Fellows (including 12 Members of the Council), 3 Associates (all Members of the Council), and 5 Licentiates (including 2 Members of the Council).

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May, 1927, having been published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read, confirmed and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of:—

Charles William Ball, transferred to Fellowship, 1926.

William Edward Benjamin Froome Cook, elected Associate 1901.

Bryan Watson, elected Associate 1906 (Arthur Cates Prize-man, 1908).

William Willis Gale, elected Licentiate 1911.

And it was *Resolved* that the regrets of the Institute for their loss be entered on the Minutes and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The Chairman announced that by a resolution of the Council the following had ceased to be members of the Royal Institute:—

Associates.—Henry Stanley Morran; John Desborough Watt; Kenneth Edward Webb; Frederick Newall Young.

Licentiates.—Vivian Sydney Rees Poole; Arthur Wakefield Wheeler.

The following candidates were elected to membership by show of hands under Bye Law 12 :—

AS FELLOWS (20).

BRIDGEN : CHARLES HENRY EDWARD [*A.* 1901], York.
 CLEMES : FRANK [*A.* 1919], Salcombe, South Devon.
 COULDREY : MAJOR WALTER NORMAN [*A.* 1921], Paignton.
 GOODWIN : BERNARD MALCOLM [*A.* 1911].
 GRANGER : WILLIAM FRASER [*A.* 1922].
 KIRK : COLONEL ALBERT EDWARD, O.B.E. [*A.* 1892], Leeds.
 LEATHART : JULIAN RUDOLPH [*A.* 1922].
 PORTER : HENRY ARTHUR [*A.* 1907], Lagos.
 ROBERTS : ROBERT GEORGE [*A.* 1912], Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
 SILCOCK : ARNOLD [*A.* 1914].
 WIGHTMAN : THOMAS BLAIR MONCRIEFF [*A.* 1917], Brisbane.
 YOUNG : JAMES REID [*A.* 1920], Belfast.

And the following Licentiate, who is qualified under Section IV, Clause C (ii) of the Supplemental Charter of 1925 :—

BEVAN : JOHN, Bristol.

And the following Licentiates who have passed the Qualifying Examination :—

BRENTFORD : BERNARD, Lahore.
 FINCHER : PERCY ROBERT, Leigh-on-Sea.
 FRY : REGINALD CUTHBERT.
 JOHNSON : JOHN GRAHAM, Victoria, B.C.
 MARCHMENT : WALLACE.
 SHUTE : MONTAGUE ARNOLD, Nuneaton.
 VERMONT : JOSEPH, Bucearest.

AS ASSOCIATES (20).

BEATY-POWELL : DAVID HERMAN [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 BRAYSHAW : KATHLEEN ORREY [Passed five years' course at Manchester University. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 BROWN : FRANK BOWEN REYNOLDS [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 COWLEY : ARTHUR DAVID RICHARDS [Passed five years' course at Liverpool University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 ELDER : ROBERT WALKER [Passed five years' course at Glasgow School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 ELLICOTT : LANGFORD PANNELL [Passed five years' course at London University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 ERITH : RAYMOND CHARLES [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 GREIG : JESSIE MARJORIE [Passed five years' course at London University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

GRICE : RICHARD GERALD [Passed five years' course at London University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].
 HOBBS : CAPTAIN ATHOL JOSEPH [Final Examination], Perth, West Australia.

JELLCOE : GEOFFREY ALAN [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

JOHNSON : HENRY ARTHUR [Passed five years' course at London University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

JONES : ANNE FAREWELL [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

SHORT : CHARLES HATTON [Passed five years' course at London University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

SLEIGH : ALISON [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

TAYLOR : EDGAR RICHARD [Special], Berkhamsted, Herts.

TODD : ARTHUR CATON [Passed five years' course at Liverpool University School of Architecture. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

WARBURTON : GEOFFREY EGERTON [Passed five years' course at Architectural Association. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

WATSON : FREDERICK JAMES [Final Examination], Sanderstead, Surrey.

WRIDE : JAMES BARRINGTON [Passed five years' course at Cardiff Technical College. Exempted from Final Examination after passing Examination in Professional Practice].

AS HON. ASSOCIATE (1).

HOGARTH : DAVID GEORGE, C.M.G., M.A., D.Litt., Hon. Litt.D. (Cantab), F.B.A., F.S.A., F.R.G.S., Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The Scrutineers' Reports giving the results of the annual elections of the Council, the Standing Committees and the Hon. Auditors, were read.

The Chairman declared the officers, members of Council, the Standing Committees, and the Hon. Auditors duly elected in accordance therewith.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to the Scrutineers for their labours in connection with the elections.

The proceedings closed at 8.15 p.m.

THE A.B.S. INSURANCE AGENCY. MOTOR RISKS.

The Architects' Benevolent Society offers a safe motor insurance policy with low premiums and a prompt claims service. Comprehensive cover. Security. Write for prospectus, stating make of car, H.P., year and value, to the Secretary, A.B.S., 9 Conduit Street, W.1.

Every inquiry received has resulted in a completed insurance.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

Dates of Publication.—1927: 16th July; 13th August; 17th September; 15th October.

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